



# *WORD OF LIFE*

*December 2007*

# Intercessions for Life December 2007

## Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For all expectant parents:  
that these months might be filled with joy and gratitude  
for the grace of God living in their midst;  
We pray to the Lord:

## Dec 9<sup>th</sup> SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For prisoners, away from their families and friends,  
and especially for those who wait on death row:  
that our prayers might bring them peace;  
We pray to the Lord:

## Dec 16<sup>th</sup> THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For those who are engaged to be married  
that in this season of the Holy Child  
they might pray for the children  
which God will bring to the Sacrament of their lives;  
We pray to the Lord:

## Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For every newborn child,  
and especially for those who are sick:  
that God might send an angel to be with them;  
We pray to the Lord:

## Dec 30<sup>th</sup> THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

For all families,  
and especially those who are refugees:  
that their consecrated love  
might help them find their way home;  
We pray to the Lord:



**Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> First Sunday of Advent**

Side by side with exemplary families, there are often others that are unfortunately marked by the frailty of conjugal bonds, the scourge of abortion and the demographic crisis, little attention of teaching authentic values to the children ... and a growing sense of inner bewilderment among the young people. ... For this reason, every Ecclesial Community ... is called to be a reference point and to enter into dialogue with the Community of which it is an integral part. ... [Never] tire of always being courageous defenders of life and of the family. ...

Benedict XVI, Address to Bishops of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, June 23, 2006

**Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday of Advent**

I ... decisively support you in your political efforts to favor conditions enabling young couples to raise children. Yet all this will be pointless, unless we can succeed in creating once again in our countries a climate of joy and confidence in life, a climate in which children are not seen as a burden, but rather as a gift for all.

Benedict XVI, Address to Authorities and Diplomatic Corps, Vienna, September 7, 2007

**Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Advent**

God's sign is simplicity. God's sign is the baby. God's sign is that he makes himself small for us. He does not come with power and outward splendor. He comes as a baby – defenseless and in need of our help. ... He asks for our love: so he makes himself a child. He wants nothing other from us than our love, through which we spontaneously learn to enter into his feelings, his thoughts and his will ... to practice with him that humility of renunciation that belongs to the very essence of love. God made himself small so that we could understand him, welcome him, and love him. – Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, Midnight Mass, Christmas 2006

**Dec. 23<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday of Advent**

He became a child, so that the Word could be grasped by us. In this way God teaches us to love the little ones. In this way he teaches us to love the weak. In this way he teaches us respect for children. The child of Bethlehem directs our gaze towards all children who suffer and are abused in the world, the born and the unborn. Towards children who are placed as soldiers in a violent world; towards children who have to beg; towards children who suffer deprivation and hunger; towards children who are unloved. In all of these it is the Child of Bethlehem who is crying out to us; it is the God who has become small who appeals to us. Let us pray this night that the brightness of God's love may enfold all these children. Let us ask God to help us do our part so that the dignity of children may be respected.

Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, Midnight Mass, Christmas 2006

**Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

I appeal to political leaders not to allow children to be considered as a form of illness, nor to abolish in practice your legal system's acknowledgment that abortion is wrong. I say this out of a concern for humanity. But that is only one side of this disturbing problem. The other is the need to do everything possible to make European countries once again open to welcoming children. Encourage young married couples to establish new families and to become mothers and fathers! You will not only assist them, but you will benefit society as a whole.

Pope Benedict XVI, Address to Authorities and Diplomatic Corps, Vienna, Sept. 7, 2007